Treasure Valley Forest Service Retirees

September 2016

Message from the President

By F. Carl Pence

TIME FLIES AND, THERE IS,"... NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN"
(Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Don't know about the rest of you, but I'm not ready for this summer to end. I haven't had a chance to do all the things I wanted to do. However, it has been an interesting summer with both good and bad things.

The bad is there seems to be more and more funerals to attend and news some of our members, including myself find we are dealing with additional age related challenges. Personally, the good part was that Vicki and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and had a great celebration with relatives and others.

An interesting thing I recently read in the news paper

relating to our careers was, "new research has revealed we can reduce the amount of large wildfires by reducing fuels." I'm still trying to identify what would be different in this new discovery than what we did back in "the day". Probably, there are differences in purpose and tactics, but the results of what they said needed done seems to end up in the same on-the-ground conditions we achieved....reduced fuels



and a healthy forest, thus "...there is nothing new under the sun". I was trying to identify the differences, and maybe you can help me in that regard. Here is what I think the differences may be, if the new research is actually implemented:

 Reality is there are areas that mechanical fuel treatment is not feasible, like wilderness or other special areas. In these areas I hope the new research will help change past constraints on human ignited prescribed fire.

When I was Area Ranger on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and drove from Stanley to my headquarters in Wood River Valley on a hot, dry August day I would look at the thirtysome mile strip of mature, beetle infested lodgepole pine and pray, "Please, not while I'm here Lord." Then, I would fanaticize what I wish I could do, things I knew were not possible given current social-political realities. For example, I would start with a human ignited prescribe fire that would burn out Hell Roaring Creek, up into the crags of the Sawtooth Wilderness, cutting the continuity of fuel on the north face of the Sawtooths in half. I would start it a week before weather forecasts indicate the fall equinox storm would happen, generally within the first couple weeks of September. Following that, I would continue similar actions to break up the continuity of fuels along that area, creating a mosaic of age classes within that lodgepole forest; which will someday explode into a very large fire unless a fire occurs that is orchestrated within our conditions, not nature's; that is, a fire created by lightening sometime in July or August.

2. I suspect a significant difference in implementing the "new" science is purpose. In our day, our purpose was to provide a useful product for human consumption, create profitable businesses, use revenues to create a healthy, productive forest and continue those purposes into perpetuity. Reduced fuel and controllable fire were a result, but not the primary purpose. Now, I think reduced fuel is the solitary focus. I sincerely hope the potential to utilize a renewable resource, capitalize on creation of a healthy forest related industry and create healthy rural communities is not lost in this objective.

So, the end result may be the same but the purpose is different. **There is some wisdom in repackaging and renaming a good thing** in order to get it going again. •

"The lesson of history is rarely learned by the actors themselves"

James A. Garfield 20th President of the United States (1831-1881)

Lowman Ranger District Boise National Forest hosts 5th Annual Veterans Fishing Day event By

Susan Blake

Acting Public Affairs Officer Boise National Forest

The Boise National Forest, Boise Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital, First Student Chapter Transportation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and volunteers from the Lowman, Idaho community worked together to sponsor the 5th Annual Veterans Fishing Day at the Lowman Nature Ponds. The objective of this project was to provide military veterans associated with the Boise VA

Hospital a day of enjoyment and fishing.



According to counselors at the VA hospital, events like these allow veterans to take their mind off their disability and focus on an activity during their rehabilitation. This event was coordinated by Fish Biologist Scott Brandt of the Boise National Forest and Kelly O'Dell of the Boise Veterans Affairs Hospital. The goal was to introduce these veterans to fishing while enjoying the serene mountain setting of the Boise National Forest. First Student Chapter Transportation provided the bus, which was funded through the Forest Service to transport the Veterans from the VA Hospital to the Lowman Nature Ponds. IDFG stocked the Lowman Nature Ponds with hatchery rainbow trout prior to the event and the Lowman Volunteer Firefighters and Lowman, Idaho community members provided a BBO and pot-luck lunch for the veterans.

The event was attended by 38 Veterans and 40 family members. Local community volunteer Cindy Rekow and Boise National Forest Service personnel sewed two quilts, which were raffled off and presented to Veterans. Linda & Gene Brock, and Barney Lyons represented the Treasure Valley Retirees.

"It was an honor for the Lowman Ranger District to organize and host this event. Also, it was a humbling experience for Forest Service personnel to see the sacrifices others have made for this country," said Scott Brandt. "The



Lowman, Idaho community was very generous with their support of this project."

IDFG supported the project by stocking the ponds, which provided the veterans with hours of fishing enjoyment. The hope is that the Veterans that attended this event will return to the Boise, Idaho and continue to fish as part of their rehabilitation. Φ

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) Sets Open Season

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will hold an open season from September 1 through September 30. This is the first FEGLI open season since 2004.

During September, federal employees eligible for FEGLI can elect any coverage that FEGLI offers, including Option C coverage on the lives of eligible family members. Employees do not have to be currently enrolled in FEGLI to elect coverage during the open season. Open season elections have no medical exam required and no health questions to answer.

Elections made during the FEGLI open season have a one-year delayed effective date. Coverage elected in the September 2016 FEGLI open season will be effective on the first day of the first full pay period on or after October 1, 2017, as long as employees meet pay and duty status requirements. Φ

Trivia

- 1. The Lowman fire burned over 47,000 acres in what year?
- 2. This town was the largest city in the Northwest in 1860's.
- 3. The Boise National Forest has over 9,000 miles of perennial and intermittent streams.

 True or False

Answers on page 4

Emmett Ranger District presents "Kids in the Woods" Environmental Education Program

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$

Susan Blake

Acting Public Affairs Officer Boise National Forest

Excited and eager to get outdoors, approximately 110 fifth-graders, along with teachers and parents from the Emmett District school system in Boise, Idaho, participated in a "Kids in the Woods" environmental education program at the Antelope Campground located on the shores of the scenic Sagehen Reservoir in the Boise National Forest.



At an elevation of 4,800 feet, the campground served as nature's classroom to students that rotated to designated areas staffed by Boise National Forest personnel. The two-day environmental education field trip gave kids a glimpse into environmental management and resource conservation for watersheds, fisheries, range management, soils, timber, wildlife, botany, fuels, sagegrouse, and recreation using a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) based curriculum. They even had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on fishing clinic.



The event was planned and presented by the Emmett Ranger District, the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and the Emmett School District. "This was truly a collaborative effort as evidenced by all of the help from the Supervisor's Office and other Ranger Districts," said Emmett District Ranger Richard Newton. "I received numerous compliments from the teachers and parents who were in attendance and they also expressed their desire to keep this program in 2017."

Piggy-backing on the success of this event, the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission has plans to develop this program into an Environmental Education teaching curriculum that can be packaged and provided to multiple schools across southern Idaho. This curriculum would provide teaching aids for resource management and conservation. $^{\phi}$

Pictures from June 15 Annual Picnic and Meeting







CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER MEETING AND PROGRAM-

PLACE: MOON CAFÉ (OLD ELMER'S), 6767 WEST FAIRVIEW AVE., BOISE (INTERSECTION OF FAIRVIEW AND ALLUMBAUGH OCTOBER 19, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 PM

PROGRAM: SALMON RIVER SLIDE SHOW BY MARTY MORACHE

NOVEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM-

PLACE: TO BE DETERMINED NOVEMBER 16, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 PM PROGRAM: HEALTH BENEFITS-BLUE CROSS, JACOB SCHAAF

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

FEBRUARY MEETING AND PROGRAM-

PLACE: TBA

FEBRUARY 15, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 PM

PROGRAM: TBA

Trivia Answers

- 1. 1989
- 2. Idaho City
- 3. True

We Celebrate the Life of this Friend and Extend Our Sympathy to the Families

Josephine "Joy" Koskella

Josephine Koskella, nickname "Joy", age 92, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2016 at a nursing facility in Dallas, Texas.

She lived the prior three months with her son, Rick Koskella and family before the "stroke" and hospitalization.

Joy spent 10 years in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her husband, Theodore "Ted" Koskella, who preceded her in death four and half years ago.

Joy was dedicated to her husband, her five children, Karen, Lauren, Richard, Sheelagh and Jana. Through the years she travelled extensively with her husband's Forest Service career, including Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, California and Washington D.C. Joy was involved in numerous Forest Service functions, committees and very involved in the F.S. Retirees groups.

Joy was dearly loved and respected by all who knew her and always had a "big smile" to share with others. She



will be greatly missed. She now joins her husband of 65 years in peace and grace. Joy served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Old Timers Club of Boise from 1979 to 1980 while her husband Ted served as President.

From 1995 to 1997, Joy served as President for two terms. Again in 2001, Ted and Joy co-chaired the presidency with Jim and Lonnie Larkin. 4

The Girls of the Sandwich Brigade By Joy Koskella

In the summer of 1949, the Idaho hell's Canyon fire burned fiercely. From grey skies, ashes occasionally drifted down on the little town of McCall. Usually a bustling area during the summer months, our town was now silent and worried. Most of the Forest Offices were empty, as every available man had been dispatched to the raging fire scene.

The Forest Supervisor was Tom Mathews and his lovely wife, Rie, was an icon for were new Forest Service wives. Elegant and gracious, she was always available to us, helping us to adjust to our new lives. As this particular time, Rie called us all to a meeting, and asked us if we would be willing to help on a project she want to organize-that of providing lunches for the firefighters which then de dropped by plane at the fire area. Of course, we were all happy to be of service to "our" men. We met daily for a week or so at the Smokejumper Headquarters, a large building where tables were set up and where we managed to produce pretty good sack lunches, with lots of fun and laughter. One wife planted bright red kisses on some of the sacks—hoping her husband might get one!

I wrote a poem about the project, dedicating it to the "girls of the Sandwich Brigade". Through the years we have sometimes reminisced over "the good old days" when we were truly "a Forest Service Family" and cared about each other.

The Girls of the Sandwich Brigade Thousand of sandwiches daily are made By the hard-working "girls" of the "Sandwich brigade" Peanut butter, jam and cheese! "Pass the meat and mustard, please!" "OH. My aching back and knees!"

Oh, how the sandwiches roll down the table. The girls work as fast as they're possibly able. "Toss the jelly—gimme bread!"
We gotta get these fighters fed!
"Oh, my arms—they feel like lead!"

Such a flurry and flutter, such a hue and cry, There's heard on the assembly line as hours fly by. "Pop the sacks, fill 'em too!" Sandwiches, candy, gum to chew! "Coffee's made—how about you?"

Now dipping their spoons, now brandishing knives, There was ne'er was such a sight as these forestry wives. There's lots of noise in the old mess hall! "Let's go, girls !" "Get on the ball!" "A thousand done?" "Okay, that's all!"

Did You Know?

The Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC) was created in 1965 because the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Weather Service saw the need to work together to reduce the duplication of services, cut costs, and coordinate national fire planning and operations. The National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs joined BIFC in in the mid 1970s. The US Fish and Wildlife Service later joined in 1979. The Center's name was changed in 1993 from the Boise Interagency Fire Center to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) to more accurately reflect its national mission. The US Fire Administration-FEMA joined NIFC in 2003. The National Interagency Fire Center located in Boise, Idaho is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. §

QUOTE OF ANY ERA

"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance."

Cicero, 55 BC

We have a land management problem, not a fire problem

DALE BOSWORTH, DAVID A. MIHALIC AND RYAN
ZINKE
Aug 24, 2016
IR Opinion

While reasonable people might disagree on any number of issues, we agree that Theodore Roosevelt was right. Our public lands belong to all Americans and are best managed under federal protection. Roosevelt defied convention and courageously acted to save America's diminishing natural resources, bringing 230 million acres of public land under increased protection as national forests, refuges, parks and monuments. He and Gifford Pinchot, whom Roosevelt appointed first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, are credited with establishing the modern "conservation ethic" by using scientific management principles that have become the bedrock of public land management policy. Indeed, their vision that conservation means promoting resource management along with strict protection is well reflected in our diverse system of national parks, forests, wilderness and public lands.

Today, Roosevelt's conservation ethic is in jeopardy as special interests, endless litigation, and political gridlock threaten proven best practices, balanced use, and common sense while tying the hands of our resource professionals. The result is catastrophic wildland fires, destruction of critical habitat, management decisions made by lawyers, and the loss of millions of dollars in local revenue that funds schools, infrastructure and preservation.

What is needed to restore the conservation ethic is better management by resource professionals, greater collaboration with citizens, and increased investment in our public lands. But "better" management does not mean the transfer or the sale of federal lands. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is an effective management tool to identify risks, mitigate potential impacts, and to prevent inappropriate use. But Congress never intended NEPA to be a tool to stop sound resource management. Today, the facts supporting the need for better management are clear. In just 20 years, the U.S. Forest Service has gone from spending 15 percent of its budget on fighting fires to over 50 percent. Last year, over \$2 billion were spent fighting fire. The season is longer, fires burn hotter, and the devastation to watershed and wildlife is undeniable. The fact is, we do not have a fire problem; we have a land management problem. We need to restore scientific management principles, promote collaboration and balanced use, and allow professional land managers to manage.

Montana is proud that we lead the nation in collaborative land management efforts, but unfortunately we also lead in litigating their results. Collaboration is not easy. It takes time, resources, and commitment by all stakeholders to come together and reach consensus. Such efforts should be rewarded. But too often, the collective decisions are stopped by punitive litigation from objectors who believe their own agenda is more important.

The result is that all management progress stops and the collective will of stakeholders is subverted. The outcome is that good solutions are tossed out and stakeholders are told to start over. In the meantime, opportunities are lost and best practices disrupted due to the tyranny of a few. Too often, the next step is to lose heart or become frustrated and to fix the blame, instead of fixing the problem.

Meanwhile, the USFS spends the lion's share of their budget fighting fires and defending litigation. Foresters are faced with mountains of paperwork rather than being in the field. Parks face crowding, resource damage, and decaying facilities. Refuges remain short-staffed, and wildlife suffers while public lands lose native plants and suffer unmanaged use. Common sense would say we need more resource professionals and scientists on the land and greater collaboration with citizens to promote a healthier public landscape.

Montana is blessed to have world renowned national parks among our national and state forests and national wildlife refuges. The success of Glacier and Yellowstone may also be a threat to their sustainability unless we prepare now for the future. With visitors at record levels we already see those who believe people are the problem and the solution is to keep people out. It is time we demonstrate the courage of Teddy Roosevelt, invest in our parks and forests, and rethink the use of our adjacent public lands to relieve some of the burden. We believe this will take collaboration and both public and private resources to improve access, upgrade recreation amenities, protect habitat, and better manage public use and access.

We believe all Montanans cherish our public lands. We must act now -- together -- to restore a true conservation ethic. Roosevelt had it right when he stated "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do (their) part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune." We agree. $^{\phi}$

Former U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, Former Yosemite and Glacier National Parks Supervisor David A. Mihalic, and Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke

Source: Helena Independent Record Newspaper

Membership Application

Name	_
Spouse's	
Name	_
Address	
City	_
State	
Zip Code	
Phone	
Cell Phone	
Email	_
Dues	
Amt. Enclosed_\$	_

Annual dues are \$6.00 per couple or \$3.00 for single members or widows/widowers. The dues for members at the age of 90 are waived.

If you can't remember your status, call Susan at 208-369-3723 or email at sueprentiss@gmail.com

Make Check to:

Treasure Valley Forest Service Old Timer's Club And Mail to: Susan Prentiss, 2300 Cherry Lane, Emmett, ID 83617

The Payette Retirees have breakfast at the Pancake House in McCall, every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 0800.

I'd rather regret the things I have done than the things that I haven't.

Lucille Ball

Officers 2016-2017	Name	Phone
President	F. Carl Pence	468-9318
Vice President	Woody Williams	672-1390
Secretary-Treasurer	Susan Prentiss	369-3723
Program Chairman	Gene Brock	376-1377
Newsletter	Barney Lyons	899-0356
Historian	Gene Brock, Chairman	376-1377
R4 Region Old Timers'	F. Carl Pence	468-9318
Board Members	Frank Elder	369-4043

Announcing the 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Tour

For more than 50 years, a Christmas tree has graced the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the holiday season. The Payette National Forest in partnership with nonprofit Choose Outdoors will bring this special gift from Idaho to Washington, D.C. for the 2016 season, involving more than 25 communities along the way. The 80 – foot Engelmann Spruce is the second U.S. Capitol Christmas tree to come from Idaho. It will be cut on Nov. 2 near McCall and prepared for the 2,000-mile expedition. With great fanfare, the tree will leave the Payette National Forest followed by ambassadors from the Payette and Choose Outdoors for the journey to the U.S. Capitol. Community stops include:

- **McCall, ID** (Nov. 5 from 5:00 –7:00 p.m. at Downtown McCall, 1000 2nd Street)
- **Cascade, ID** (Nov. 6 from 10:00 11:00 a.m. at Kelly's Whitewater Park, E Mill St)
- **Horseshoe Bend, ID** (Nov. 6 from 1 − 2 p.m. at Horseshoe Bend School District #73, 398 School Drive)
- **Boise, ID** (Nov. 6 from 4:00 6:00 p.m. at Cabela's, 8109 West Franklin Road)
- **Boise, ID** (Nov. 7 from 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. at Idaho State Capitol, 700 W Jefferson St)
- **Weiser, ID** (Nov. 8 from 9:00 11:00 a.m. at Main Street)
- **Council, ID** (Nov. 8 from 1:30 3:00 p.m. at 101 Bleeker Street)
- New Meadows, ID (Nov. 9 from 9:00 10:00 a.m. at 101 Virginia Street)
- Grangeville, ID (Nov. 9 from 1:00 3:00 p.m. at Grangeville Senior Center, 108 Truck Route)
- Lapwai, ID (Nov. 10 from 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. at Nez Perce National Historic Park, 39063 U.S. Highway 95)
- Moscow, ID (Nov. 10 from 2:00 4:00 p.m. at University of Idaho, 709 S Deakin St)
- Coeur d'Alene, ID (Nov. 11 from 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. at 525 East Front Avenue)
- Salmon, ID (Nov. 12 from 2:30 –4:30 p.m. at 204 Main St)
- Idaho Falls, ID (Nov. 14 from 9:00 11:00 a.m. at Alturas Academy, 3950 S. Yellowstone Hwy)
- Twin Falls, ID (Nov. 14 from 6:00 8:00 p.m. at $4^{th}/5^{th}$ and Shoshone Street East)
- Ogden, UT (Nov. 15 from 4:00 6:00 p.m. at Forest Service Regional Office, 324 25th Street)
- Grand Junction, CO (Nov.16 from 6:00 8:00 p.m. at Mesa Mall, 2424 Old US Hwy 6 & 50)
- Glenwood Springs, CO (Nov.17 from 4:00 –
 6:00 p.m. at Centennial Park/9th Street)
- Denver, CO (Nov. 18 from 12:00- 2:00 p.m. at Bass Pro Shop, 7970 Northfield Blvd.)

- Kansas City, MO (Nov. 19 from 4:30 6:30 p.m. at Union Station Kansas City, 30 W Pershing Rd)
- Columbia, MO (Nov. 20 from 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia Mall, 2200 I-70 Drive S.W.)
- Paducah, KY (Nov. 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Noble Park, 2801 Park Ave)
- Paducah, KY (Nov. 22 from 9:00 11:00 a.m. at Noble Park, 2801 Park Ave)
- Nashville, TN (Nov. 22 from 5:00 7:00 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops Opry Mills, 323 Opry Mills Dr.)
- Knoxville, TN (Nov. 23)
- Blacksburg, VA (Nov. 25 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at 135 College Ave.)
- Joint Base Andrews, MD (Nov. 27)
 After arriving in Washington, D.C. the tree lighting is expected to occur in early December. The exact date will be determined by the U. S. Speaker of the House of Representatives, and is likely to be broadcast on C-SPAN. •

For tour information, event details, news and updates, and to track the tree cross-country, come back to visit www.capitolchristmastree.com or www.fs.usda.gov/payette

Tour of the Salmon River Slide Show October 19 Program By Marty Morache

Marty's career started as a Conservation Officer with the Idaho Fish and Game in 1956. He served in three locations: glens Ferry, Jerome, and Cascade. He became the Information Officer at the Regional Office in Jerome. Marty worked with Governors Andrus and Evans on the Frank Church Wilderness before becoming the State Representative for Scenic and Wild Rivers in an ecologist capacity.

Library of Congress Awards Grant to National Museum of Forest Service History

Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) grant has been awarded to the National Museum of Forest Service History. The grant will support a three-day Teacher Training Workshop, in the spring of 2017. Twenty teachers will be invited to participate, learning how to access and use U.S. Forest Service primary source documents and artifacts for development of lessons for 21st Century learning in K-12 classrooms. Crossing multiple disciplinary areas, these sources inspire curiosity, prompt questions and support investigations, which promote deeper thinking and

understanding. The Museum will share lessons plans electronically with teachers across the country. Supplemental grants received will help support the program and provide complementary educational resources for teachers.

Additional funding to support this program includes: Max and Betty Swanson, Plum Creek, Michaelson and Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Group. The ERM Group grant will support education program and workshop through website design, curriculum sharing and traveling trunks. A special thanks to the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation for providing the workshop venue at the American Explorers Base camp at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch near Yellowstone National Park. •

National Museum of Forest Service History

http://www.nmfs-history.net

perpetuate and preserve the traditions and "esprit de corps" of the Forest Service, its employees and retirees, and to maintain contacts and good fellowship among those retired and those nearing retirement. We strive to maintain that wonderful "family feeling" which is characteristic of Forest Service employees, nation-wide. November 15, 2006, the Old Timer's Club of Boise was changed to the Treasure Valley Forest Service Old Timers' Club to represent a larger area than just Boise. The Club has filed as an unincorporated nonprofit association with the Idaho Secretary of State. Usually we are treated to a fine program along with the luncheon, and we try to keep our members informed of new activities, problems, policies and plans of the Forest Service, along with information of interest to members generally. We are affiliated with the Intermountain Old Timers, in Ogden, Utah, with a Director on their Board

The Old Timers Club of the Boise Area was

organized in 1950: its purpose is to protect.

Barney Lyons 16921 Oasis Rd. Caldwell, ID 83607